examined in the Ministry of Railways in 1997. The project was found operationally feasible but State Government of Andhra Pradesh did not give consent to bear their share of cost and the project could not take off.

Indian Railways is, however, ready to undertake the project if the State Government bears the investment required.

Computerised ticket booking facilities at Silchar and Badarpur

2254. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to provide computerised ticket booking facilities for rail journeys from Silchar and Badarpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the facility is likely to be introduced; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Computerised ticket booking facilities is already available at Silchar. However, these facilities are not available at Badarpur at present.

Computerised reservation facilities are capital intensive and also involve significant recurring costs. These are provided at railway stations registering a large number of reservation related transactions. The reservation workload available at Badarpur railway station is not high enough to qualify for provision of these facilities at present.

Genetically engineered rice

2255. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop and introduce genetically engineered rice (Golden Rice) when other countries and international organisations are against the entry of genetically modified foods; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for opting for genetically modified